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Hon. Minister be pleased to give an assurance that pending the recommendation of that Committee, no licence will be cancelled so far as these ex-tappers are concerned?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : That is a different matter. The main question relates to Coimbatore taluk. The particular question raised by the hon. Member will also be examined. The Cabinet Sub-Committee may or may not go into this question. Whatever it is, it has to be considered as a separate question.

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : During the last summer session, sweet toddy was supplied to the hon. Members. May I know whether this year also we will be supplied with the same?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : The hon. Member is requested to look outside.

SRI A. M. RATNASWAMY : Since the introduction of Prohibition, the condition of these toddy-tappers has become precarious. Do not the Government think that as a result of the cancellation of the licences for drawing sweet toddy, the position of the ex-tappers will become still more precarious?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : Yes, Sir, that is also one of the considerations. Therefore, when this question is examined, the Government will take into consideration the fact that about 1,012 persons will be rendered unemployed. That question will certainly be examined.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : The policy of the Government themselves is to give employment to unemployed people. That being so, if the Government cancel the licences issued to these people, will it not increase the unemployment problem which will become very acute? By so doing, will not the Government actually promote unemployment so to say?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : We cannot encourage the abuse of licences. At the same time, we have to see that people are not unemployed. Therefore, it is only a question of compromise between these two aspects. All aspects will be taken into consideration when we come to a decision on this matter.

Government Bus Transport

* 3424 *Q.*—SRI K. T. RAJU (on behalf of Sri N. K. Palanisamy) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have any proposal to make the Government Bus Transport Organization in the City a permanent one; and

(*b*) if so, when it will be given effect to?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) & (*b*) Yes, Sir. The question of making the Government Bus Service permanent

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will be taken up immediately after the proposals for the framing of service rules for the various posts in the Organization and the fixation of permanent cadre strength which are under preparation, are finalised.

MR. SPEAKER: Question-time is over.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN: Sir, I rise on a point of order. Under Rule 22, we have one hour for questions and answers. We have got 5 more minutes unless otherwise unanimously decided.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a point of order. Rule 22 states that—

'the first hour of every sitting shall, unless the House unanimously resolves otherwise, be available for the asking and answering of questions.'

If the questions are over within that time, it does not mean that hon. Members will have to be putting all sorts of questions which are not on the agenda. So, when the questions on the agenda are over, we pass on to the next item of business.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM: May I submit that this type of contingency arises on account of the paucity of questions that are supplied or that are put on the agenda to be answered by the Ministers. May I know the reason as to why sufficient number of questions are not put on the agenda? We understand from the Opposition benches that enough questions have been sent to your office to be answered by the Ministers. Why are they not coming before us? Have they not been got ready? Or, are there departmental difficulties in preparing the answers? Or, are the Ministers abetting this kind of crime of not trying to answer these questions?

MR. SPEAKER: The questions received from the hon. Members are sent to the respective departments of the Government for furnishing answers. As soon as answers are ready and received by us, we put them on the agenda, that is, in the Question List. But, if they are not ready, we cannot help it. I think somewhere about 1,000 questions will be pending for which answers are awaited. Hon. Members should also remember that we are continuously sitting every day and the Ministers are answering a large number of questions. As it is, if we do not receive further answers in time, it may be that we may have some days without questions at all.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN: Arising out of the helpful answer given by the Hon. Speaker, may I know how many questions are pending with the Government for which answers are to be prepared and sent?

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know the exact number. I think there are about 1,000 such questions. That is what I understand from the office.